AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

1-60. (Cancelled)

61. (Currently amended) A kit for ~~detecting the presence of at least one biomarker indicative of~~ **diagnosing** intra-amniotic inflammation~~, in a sample of amniotic fluid~~ comprising:

one or more adsorbents ~~at least one adsorbent~~ that ~~binds~~ **collectively bind** at least ~~one biomarker associated with intra-amniotic inflammation~~ **biomarkers HNP-1, HNP-2, calgranulin A and calgranulin C** and

instructions for mixing said ~~adsorbent~~ **adsorbents** with a sample of amniotic fluid~~, and~~ monitoring said mixture for binding between said adsorbent and ~~a biomarker~~ **each of said biomarkers** in said sample, **and correlating the presence of one or more of the biomarkers with intra-amniotic inflammation**

~~wherein said kit includes at least one adsorbent that detects a calgranulin~~.

62. (Currently amended) A kit as claimed in claim 61, wherein said adsorbent is an~~,~~ antibody ~~is immobilized on a solid substrate~~.

63. (Currently amended) A kit as claimed in claim 62, which additionally comprises an enzyme-antibody conjugate ~~used to detect biomarker immobilized on said solid substrate~~.

64. (Currently amended) A kit as claimed in claim 61, wherein said ~~solid substrate is a~~ **adsorbent is immobilized on a** probe.

65. (Previously presented) A kit as claimed in claim 64, wherein said kit instructions specify analysis by laser desorption/ionization mass spectrometry.

66. (Cancelled)

67. (Currently amended) A kit as claimed in claim ~~66~~ **64**, wherein said adsorbent is a hydrophobic adsorbent.

68. (Currently amended) A kit as claimed in 67, wherein said ~~probe is a Ciphergen H4 probe or H50 probe~~ **adsorbent comprises a C9 aliphatic chain attached to a phenyl ring or a C16 aliphatic chain**.

69-76. (Cancelled)

77. (Currently amended) A method for qualifying the risk of preterm delivery in a pregnant patient, ~~comprised of~~ **comprising** analyzing a sample of amniotic fluid from said patient for ~~a level of at least one calgranulin~~ **the presence of each of at least biomarkers HNP-1, HNP-2, calgranulin A and calgranulin C and correlating the presence of one or more of the biomarkers with a risk of preterm delivery**.

78-81. (Cancelled)

82. (Currently amended) A method for qualifying the risk of preterm delivery in a pregnant patient, comprising

(A) providing a spectrum generated by subjecting a sample of amniotic fluid from said patient to mass spectroscopic analysis that includes profiling on a biologically- or chemically-derivatized affinity surface

and

(B) putting said spectrum through pattern-recognition analysis that is keyed to at least ~~one peak~~ **peaks** indicative of the presence of ~~a~~ **HNP-1, HNP-2, calgranulin A** and calgranulin **C** in said sample.

83-89. (Cancelled)

90. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 82, wherein said patient does not have a white blood cell count that is elevated out of the normal range.

91. (New) A method for diagnosing intra-amniotic inflammation in a patient, comprising analyzing a sample of amniotic fluid from a patient for the presence of each of at least biomarkers HNP-1, HNP-2, calgranulin A and calgranulin C and correlating the presence of one or more of the biomarkers with intra-amniotic inflammation.